

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,  
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

For some time now, I have known the candidate to whom I am going to vote. When the commercials come on I change the channels. It would be helpful to have ACTUAL issue coverage. Maybe not many people will watch, but if you can give an opportunity for one person to have access to true candidate opinions it is worth the money for the good of our country. There is so much apathy in our citizens we need to change before it destroys our democracy!

Sincerely,

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